

II. Remarks/Arguments

The instant case is a continuation of a patent application that has since issued as a U.S. patent. The "Cross Reference to Related Application" paragraph has been updated accordingly. No new matter has been added.

III. Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

On page 1, lines 7-10:

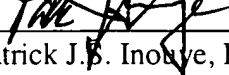
Cross-Reference to Related Application

[This patent application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/441,623, filed November 16, 1999, pending, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference, and the priority filing date of which is claimed.] This patent application is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,903, issued January 8, 2002, the priority date of which is claimed and the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

Entry of the foregoing preliminary amendment is requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please contact the undersigned at (206) 381-3900 regarding any questions or concerns associated with the present matter

Respectfully submitted,

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